

Members

Sen. Marvin Riegsecker, Chairperson
Sen. Ryan Mishler
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. Connie Sipes
Rep. Cleo Duncan
Rep. Phil Hinkle
Rep. Dennie Oxley
Rep. Vanessa Summers
Hugh Beebe
Michael Carmin
Leah Helvering
Susan Hansen
Mary Rosswurm
Herbert Grulke



INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM

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Authority: IC 12-11-7

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 28, 2005
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Sen. Marvin Riegsecker, Chairperson; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. Connie Sipes; Rep. Cleo Duncan; Rep. Phil Hinkle; Rep. Dennie Oxley; Rep. Vanessa Summers; Hugh Beebe; Leah Helvering; Herbert Grulke.

Members Absent: Sen. Ryan Mishler; Michael Carmin; Susan Hansen; Mary Rosswurm.

Senator Riegsecker, Chairman, called the meeting of the Indiana Commission on Autism to order at 1:14 p.m.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Academic and Research Programs on Autism

Christopher McDougale, M.D., Chairman of the Indiana University Department of Medicine, gave an overview of the Christian Sarkine Autism Treatment Center (Center).

Dr. McDougale presented the following information about the Center:

- (1) It provides services to individuals of all ages, birth through adulthood, and all levels of cognitive functioning.
- (2) It is the only academic and research program on autism in the state of Indiana.
- (3) It is actively treating more than 800 children.
- (4) It is one of only five sites in the country involved in a project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health that is focused entirely on medication treatment development for individuals with autism.
- (5) It received 1.86 million dollars in federal funding for autism at the close of the 106th Congress, enabling it to construct a new facility, expand clinical services, expand research efforts and treat more children.

In addition, Dr. McDougale stated that the Center currently has a one and a half year waiting period. He added that the Center provides: (1) medication management, (2) behavior therapy, (3) community-based therapy, (4) speech-language therapy, (5) supportive counseling, (6) traditional diagnostic interview, (7) multidisciplinary evaluations, and (8) co-treatment therapy models.

In response to questions from the Commission concerning funding for the Center, Dr. McDougale stated that the Center is mainly funded through grants and patient billing. He added that the Center's staff spends an enormous amount of time looking for grants to fund the Center which has caused the large waiting list. He advised the Commission members that the Center is in need of more funding to hire more staff to serve more people.

Dr. Naomi Swiezy, Clinical Director for the Center, discussed how the Center focuses on the behavioral assessment and treatment of children with autism as well as training for caregivers. She advised the Commission on the Center's upcoming annual conference to be held November 10- 11, 2005. The conference is designed for educators, school personnel, and professionals in the fields of psychology, social work, speech and language, and occupational therapy. She added that primary care physicians, pediatricians, psychiatrists, parents and individuals with autism and their families can also benefit from the conference.

Indiana Autism Coalition, Inc. (Coalition)

Liz Freeman, Coalition, discussed the goal of the Coalition, which is to help provide a better quality of life for individuals and families living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The Coalition presents an annual conference, maintains a resource & referral hotline, and provides hands on workshops for parents, family members, service providers, individuals with ASD, and people who simply want to make a difference in their communities. The Coalition is made up of groups such as: the ARC of Indiana, Noble Indiana, parents of autistic children, and First Steps.

Michelle Trivedi, Coalition, discussed applied behavior analysis (ABA) and national board certification for service providers. Ms. Trivedi stated that there are currently seven board certified ABA consultants in Indiana. She also stated that insurance providers require appropriately qualified persons to provide ABA services and that requiring board certification for all providers would meet the requirement. She presented information about the board certification process which can be found on the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) website: www.bacb.com.

Indiana Department of Insurance (IDOI)

Carol Cutter, (IDOI), provided information concerning the Insurance Mandate Benefit Task Force (Task Force). She advised the Commission that the Task Force had no directed mandates to examine this year so the Task Force focused on administering a survey to insurance providers requesting information on mandate costs. She stated that 385 letters were sent to insurance providers (including questions concerning the Autism waiver mandate). The responses are due back to the IDOI by October 17, 2005. A report is due to the Indiana Legislative Council by November 1, 2005.

Commission Discussion

In response to questions from the Commission, Peter Bisbecos, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), stated that FSSA does not currently have a comprehensive plan for autism that is mandated in the code under IC 12-11-7-5. Chairman Riegsecker suggested that the Commission name FSSA as the lead agency in developing and overseeing the plan.

The Commission discussed the following issues for possible topics for legislation to be considered at the next meeting:

- (1) An autism education requirement for medical students and continuing education credit hours on autism for licensed medical doctors.
- (2) Funding for the Christian Sarkine Center.
- (3) Requiring national board certification for behavior analysis service providers.

The Commission also discussed combining the Commission on Autism with the Commission on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Future Meeting Date

The next meeting date for the Commission is scheduled for October 24, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.